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GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD

THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Gift of an Old Manuscript Map to the Society. A manuscript map entitled ''British Guyana, comprehending the colonies of Berbice, Demerary and Essequibo captured from the Dutch by the English in 1795,'' scale 3 miles to an inch, has been presented to the Society by L. F. Massa, Esq., of Fort Lee, N. J. The map (4 x 6 feet) was compiled by Theodore Barrell, a Boston trader, from notes taken in Demerara, 1791 to 1804. The region lies between 5°30′-7°40′ N. and 56°40′-59°30′ W. The positions and shape of the plantations and the names of the owners are given. Roads and trails with copious information written in a neat hand cover the map surface. Blank spaces are filled with notes conveying much insight into the state of development of the colony and its production for the period of observation.

NORTH AMERICA

The American Association for the Advancement of Science at San Francisco. Special arrangements have been made for the members of the Geological Society of America and of the Association of American Geographers who expect to attend the sessions of the American Association at San Francisco beginning on August 2. A special train over the Santa Fe Road leaving Chicago on July 23 at 10.30 P. M. will be provided, and numerous stops and short side trips have been arranged for visits to points of particular geological interest and especially places best showing the features of desert erosion.

Eruptions at Mt. Lassen. The eruption at Mt. Lassen on May 19 was more than usually violent. The volcano has now become a subject of coöperative study by the Geological Survey and the Forest Service. Officers of the Lassen National Forest have been instructed to keep a record of the activity of the volcano as a basis for further scientific investigation by J. S. Diller who will reach Lassen early in July. It is not known whether a cloudburst started the latest great eruption by precipitating rain upon the molten lava in the crater or whether melting snow on the peak and the resulting flooding of the crater with water caused the accumulation of steam which blew a river of mud out of the mountain. Mr. Diller, last year, inclined toward the melted snow theory; and the reflection on the clouds of the red hot matter uncovered by the eruption indicated that the volcano was in a more or less dangerous mood. The enormous quantities of mud expelled with immense energy from the north side of the crater and down Hat Creek have damaged government and private property and destroyed bridges necessary for the entrance of live stock that are grazed on the forest range in the summer.

Variation of Human Activity according to the Seasons. Mr. Ellsworth Huntington has recently visited Hampton Institute, where at his suggestion, for three months, a series of daily tests both mental and physical had been made upon 11 boys and 11 girls. The purpose is to continue the tests for about a year longer. ''We shall thus have a full year's record and shall be able to see how human activity varies according to the seasons. The tests will be of special value because they will form the only series where the activity of the mind has ever been tested on so large a scale for a long period. They will bring out not only the effect of the seasons and of different degrees of humidity but also the degree of variability among individuals and the difference between the white and negro races. After three months the students are still as keenly interested as at the beginning.''

Relation of Past and Present Climate to Life. A letter from Dr. Ellsworth Huntington dated April 14 says that he was then en route for the Mohave Desert and its neighbors, including Death Valley and the Searles, Panamint and Owens Basins. The Desert Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington proposes there to carry on a somewhat broad study of the relation of past and present climate to life. Drs. D. T. MacDougal and Forrest Shreve will study the botanical aspects, Mr. E. E. Free will work on the chemical and physical qualities of the recent lacustrine and alluvial deposits, and Dr. Huntington will investigate the remarkable series of old strands and other allied phenomena. They hope also to have coöperation on other sides. For example, Mr. F. E. Matthes, as part of the work of the U. S. Geological Survey, has made important observations upon some recent moraines. These various lines of evidence as well as Dr. Huntington's measurements of Big Trees in the same region point to recent climatic pulsations. The question to be solved is whether there is any way of correlating the various lines of evidence—botanical, chemical, glacial, lacustrine, and fluvial.

The Reported Discovery of Large Islands in Hudson Bay. The surprising announcement has been made from Montreal that some hitherto uncharted islands of very large extent have been discovered near the center of Hudson Bay, by Mr. Robert J. Flaherty, "leader of the Sir William Mackenzie expeditions to Hudson Bay." The islands are said to extend from north to south nearly 400 miles, and to have a total area of over 4,000 square miles. They are said to consist of low hills, and to be uninhabited save by Eskimo in a few places. They correspond to what have been known as the Belcher Islands, but are of much greater area. This discovery, if at all answering to the above report, is evidently of very great interest and may be expected to throw some light on the obscure accounts of Hudson's last voyage. The Belcher Islands are shown on the Admiralty charts as two groups of small islets between 56° and 57° N. lat., and somewhat over 100 miles from the eastern shore of the bay. According to Hessel Gerritz's statements, and his map said to have been copied from Hudson's own, Hudson sailed up the western shore to 60° then meeting with a "wide sea, agitated by mighty tides from the northwest." Commentators have declined to accept the given latitude, and some (*e.g.* Mr. Miller Christy in his 'Voyages of Foxe and James') have thought the point mentioned to have been the northern extremity of James Bay, in 55°. But it now seems possible that Hudson sailed up the east side of the newly examined islands, in which case a latitude approaching 60° might perhaps have been reached before the open sea to the northwest was discovered. (*Geogr. Journ.*, Vol. 45, 1915, No. 5, p. 440).

The Topographic Map of Pennsylvania. A little more than half of the area of Pennsylvania has now been covered by topographic sheets. The Topographic and Geologic Survey Commission of the State has just issued *Report* No. 7, which contains the large mass of engineering data that has accumulated during the survey, such as the determined positions of many places both horizontal and vertical, magnetic determinations, etc., all of which are of great and increasing value to the engineer and the surveyor.

New Vessel for the Coast and Geodetic Survey. The Department of Commerce has purchased for the Coast and Geodetic Survey the steamer *Isis,* which has gone to Washington to complete her equipment. Wireless apparatus and sounding machinery will be installed and the vessel will be supplied with equipment for wire drag work. The *Isis* was purchased from the estate of T. S. Spaulding for a little less than $60,000. She was built in 1902 at a cost of about $225,000 and could not be duplicated for that price at the present time.

Summer School of Forestry. The New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University will hold its summer forest camp in August on Racquette Lake. This camp of instruction along forestry lines was started in 1914 to meet the demand for a short course in forestry. The instruction will be largely field work in elementary forestry and woodcraft. From two to five instructors will be constantly in the camp.

SOUTH AMERICA

Work on the Bolivia-Brazil Boundary Completed. The Joint Commission of Bolivia and Brazil continued and concluded last year the exploration and delimitation of the frontier line of the two countries along the rivers Abuna, Rapirran and Madeira. One of the notable features of the work was the utilization of wireless telegraphic time signals from the powerful wireless station at Porto Velho to determine longitudes further west. Porto Velho, some 1,500 miles from the Atlantic, stands at the head of navigation on the Madeira River and from it extends the forest railroad around the series of remarkable rapids and falls that make the upper Madeira unnavigable. Commander Herbert A. Edwards, who had charge of the party, has a paper on the work in the *Geographical Journal* (Vol. 45, 1915, No. 5, pp. 384-402. Map, p. 456).

The wireless party in charge of Mr. C. C. Chapman did excellent work. The aerial wire was always stretched across as high as possible between two or three convenient trees. The wireless station was erected at every camp and time signals were received each night from Porto Velho, thus enabling the party to establish most successfully the longitudes of their camping places, which were used as controlling points between which the river traverses were adjusted. Commander Edwards says: ''I believe our wireless work to be the pioneer in regions of dense forests, and we have proved the utility and feasibility of wireless determinations of longitude over comparatively long distances under most unfavorable climatic conditions.''

Channel Improvements at the Mouth of the Rio de la Plata. The increasing size of the steamers entering the harbor of Buenos Aires has led Argentine authorities to consider deepening the channel at the entrance of the Rio de la Plata to a depth of thirty feet. The depth of the channel leading to the city wharves had been increased to twenty-six feet at low tide by dredging systematically conducted to the year 1911. A description of the engineering operations required is contained in the *Boletín de Obras Públicas de la República Argentina* for the second semester of 1913 (Nos. 1 to 6, July-Dec., Vol. IX). The work will also necessitate cutting through the Punta de India bank, which extends across the mouth of the river from the Argentine to the Uruguayan shores.

AFRICA

Physical Maps of the Italian Colonies. That the physical map is the fundamental cartographic representation of a region may be considered a geographic axiom. Its predominant use, in those countries where geography is highly developed, for teaching purposes, is a recognition of this axiom. The maps in the German school atlases are perhaps the best examples of this type. Their range is naturally dictated by national considerations, *i. e.* the scale of each map is chosen according to German interest in the region it represents. If, therefore, new physical maps appear on a scale larger than hitherto available for a given region, it is a matter of satisfaction to the geographer, particularly if their manner of execution is equal to the highest German standards. This is the case with various maps of the Italian colonies which are included in the recently published second edition of Professor De Agostini's ''Atlante Geografico Metodico'' (Istituto Geografico De Agostini, Novara). Pl. 56 *bis* represents Libya on the scale of 1:12,000,000; Pl. 57, the Abyssinian highland and surrounding regions in 1:12,000,000; Pl. 58, Eritrea, 1:3,000,000; and Pl. 59, Benadir (southern Italian Somaliland), 1:3,000,000. These maps represent relief in the approved way of hachuring and elevation tints combined. Similar physical maps are contained in the first half of Professor Marinelli's ''Atlante Scolastico di Geografia Moderna'' (Antonio Vallardi, Milan, 1913), *viz.*, Pl. 20, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt, 1:10,000,000, with insets, and Pl. 22, Eritrea, Abyssinia and Somaliland, 1:10,000,000, with insets. These maps show relief by elevation tints only; a comparison with the corresponding maps in the De Agostini atlas shows how much less expressive this method used alone is than when combined with hachuring. The omission of hachuring on the physical maps in the Marinelli atlas is all the more regrettable as it is used on the corresponding political maps. Printing this feature also on the physical maps would greatly have enhanced their value.

Two other maps should be mentioned which, while not representing relief primarily, represent the physical features of critical importance in arid regions, *viz.* the cultivable areas and the different kinds of desert. These are Dardano's "Carta della Tripolitania e Cirenaica," 1:5,000,000, with insets, and the same author's "Le Nuove Provincie Italiane: Tripolitania e Cirenaica," 1:2,500,000, with insets, both published by De Agostini, Novara, and reviewed under "Tripolitania" in the *Bulletin,* Vol. 44, 1912, pp. 238 and 717 respectively.

ASIA

Sir Aurel Stein's Remarkable New Discoveries. Sir Aurel Stein sent a report on his work in Chinese Turkestan, from April to November last year, which appears in the *Geographical Journal* (May, 1915, pp. 405-411). He paid another visit to the cave temples of the Thousand Buddhas near Tenhuang and was richly rewarded. He followed the wall for about 250 miles. It had been built with its watch towers and small military stations across what, already in ancient times, was absolutely sterile desert. It was a remarkable construction made of carefully secured fascines of reeds or brushwood with clay or gravel layers between them.

Beyond the sharp bend made by the Su-lo Hu valley there were abundant finds of ancient records on wood, also furniture, many kinds of implements, etc., which were brought to light at the ruined watch stations. The evidence shows that all these had been left behind by Chinese soldiers who, during the first century before and after Christ, had guarded the frontier. The explorer was much impressed by the engineering skill which adapted the defensive line of the wall to different local conditions.

Meanwhile his surveyor, Lal Singh, went in another direction to survey practically unexplored regions. The observations made upon the hydrography of this now desert region are full of interest. Traces of extensive irrigation works abandoned long ago were found. The ruined town of Khara-Khoto was examined and its position and remains showed that this was Marco Polo's "City of Etzina," where in ancient times travelers to Karakoram, the old Mongol capital, had to lay in supplies for forty days in order to cross the great desert.

At the ruins of this town many valuable relics were secured—Buddhist manuscripts and prints, fine stucco reliefs and frescoes, household utensils, records on paper, coins, metal and stone ornaments, etc. The abandonment of the settlement must have been caused by the difficulty of maintaining irrigation. Before the expedition arrived at Turfan, from which Sir Aurel Stein sent this report in November last year, many valuable additions were made to his previous work, both archæological and geographical. Sir Aurel Stein proposed to devote a few months to the many ruined sites of Buddhist times around Turfan, while his surveyor was to map the extensive and little-known desert ranges of the Kuruk-tagh between Turfan and Lop-nor.

Recent Philippine Surveys by the Steamer Pathfinder. The Coast and Geodetic Survey informs the Society of some recent significant soundings by the steamer *Pathfinder* in the southwest part of the Philippines area. The Cagayanes, Cavilli and Arena Islands, Tubbataha and Maeander Reefs, in the Sulu Sea, are apparently coral capped summits of a submerged mountain range extending for 200 miles southwesterly from the southwest part of Panay Island. They rise from depths of 6,000 to 12,000 feet with a stupendous submarine slope. The soundings indicate that this range divides the Sulu Sea into two deep basins by joining the shelf or plateau extending northwest of Borneo and east of Balabac Strait. Bancoran Island and Moyune Reef are elevations at the south end of the northwest basin.

The Tubbataha Keys and Maeander Reef are the only elevations without vegetation. They are steep faced, similar in structure and consist of an accumulation of dead corals, coral rock and coral sand cemented into a greater or less degree of compactness. The pounding of the sea has accumulated the coral sand in the center to an elevation of five or six feet.

The sounding lines were confined mostly to the steamer track from the south point of Panay Island to Nasubata Channel, and from the south of Negros Island to south of Cavilli and Arena Islands. 214 deep sea soundings were taken along the track, covering about 5,050 square miles. The deepest sounding (18,294 feet or nearly 3½ miles) was in 8°50′ N., 121°50′ E. A temperature of 53° Fahr. was obtained at 2,420 fathoms. The lines of soundings from Iloilo Strait and the route around the south end of Negros to Tubbataha South Islet show depths from 1,100 to 3,000 fathoms. The 2,000 fathom curve comes within twelve miles of the south side of Cavilli Island. Depths of 700 fathoms are within four miles of the keys and islands. It appears that a ridge with 700 to 900 fathoms over it extends between Cavilli and Tubbataha, and possibly much less water would be found on a direct line between the islands and cays. Southwest of Tubbataha there is a general depth of 1,150 fathoms to within thirty miles of Bancoran Island. From Bancoran westward the water shoals gradually from 600 fathoms to 60 fathoms.

EUROPE

Native Races of Great Britain. Mr. William H. Babcock read a paper before the Washington Academy of Sciences on Feb. 16 entitled "The Races of Britain" which is summarized in the *Journal* of the Academy (Vol. 5, 1915, No. 10, p. 375). Mr. Babcock pointed out that three native languages are spoken in the islands of Great Britain—English over the larger part of it, Welsh in parts of the western mountains and Gaelic in the northern mountains—a situation which was the same in the latter part of the sixth century, excepting differences in the area of each. These languages represent three distinct waves of invasion by people who were blond when of pure blood; yet the present population contains a great number of brunettes or persons of medium tint and this type seems to be gaining on the blond type. The best explanation seems to be that the blond conquerors found in Britain a long-established and thoroughly acclimated darker population which perhaps remained more numerous than the newcomers and certainly were better adapted permanently to transmit its characteristics. This was composed mainly of a fairly advanced neolithic race, probably from southern Europe, with whatever paleolithic stocks may have been absorbed by them. The historic conquests of Great Britain—Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman—have not changed the essential result, which consists of a darker substratum gradually gaining on superimposed Celtic and Teutonic layers.

Relative Humidity Charts of England and Wales. The "Distribution of Relative Humidity in England and Wales" is discussed by W. F. Stacey in the *Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society,* Vol. XLI, 1915, pp. 45-61. The author has prepared mean monthly and annual maps of relative humidity based on the 9 A.M. observations made at more than ninety stations during the ten years 1901-1910. An examination of these maps shows that in winter the air over the interior of the country is more moist than over the coastal regions; that the minimum relative humidity occurs earlier in the year in the western parts of the country than in the eastern; that in summer the air over the interior of the country is drier than over the coastal regions, and that the smallest range of relative humidity is found in the west and the greatest in the interior towards the east. The distribution of temperature is the chief determining factor in the distribution of relative humidity, while the sea influence, the direction and character of the prevailing winds, and the configuration of the country all have important effects on temperature, and therefore on relative humidity.

R. DeC. Ward.

Victims of the War. James Blaine Miller of the Coast and Geodetic Survey was one of the victims of the *Lusitania* tragedy. He was thirty-two years old, a graduate of Oberlin College, entered the service of the Survey in 1903 and during his twelve years there was employed chiefly on hydrographic and leveling work in various localities. He had commanded four of the survey steamers in Porto Rico, Chesapeake Bay, the Philippine Islands, the Hawaiian Islands and on the coast of Alaska. He was a hard and indefatigable worker and completed a large amount of valuable service.

Dr. August Wolkenhauer, Privat Docent at the University of Göttingen, was killed in battle in the Forest of Argonne on Feb. 25. He was 38 years old. He developed special interest in the history of cartography, to which his most important papers related. Prof. Dr. Hermann Wagner, who sums up Wolkenhauer's life and work in *Petermanns Mitteilungen* (April, p. 149), says that he had had it in view to turn over to Wolkenhauer a part of his own educational activities in the University of Göttingen.

Dr. Walther Hanns, who had just received his doctorate in the geographic seminar of the University of Leipzig, has been killed in battle near Craonne, France. He was a brilliant student and a young geographer of great promise.

POLAR

ARCTIC

Mr. Stefansson's Expedition. The Canadian government recently announced its intention of doing all that is possible to rescue Mr. Stefansson and his two companions, who went north early last year on the north coast of Alaska with a sledge and some supplies across Beaufort Sea and have not been heard of since sending back the last of the supporting party in April, 1914, details of which were printed in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 46, 1914, pp. 773-774). The Canadian government reports that its three steamers now in the Arctic will set out in search of the missing men as early as the break-up of the ice renders this practicable.

The Crocker Land Expedition. Several of the New York newspapers printed, on June 7, extracts from a letter received from Donald B. MacMillan, leader of the Crocker Land Expedition, which are interesting though they do not add very much to the information sent by Mr. MacMillan to the Museum of Natural History and printed in our *Bulletin* (Vol. 47, 1915, No. 1, pp. 52-53). There are some obvious misprints in the press reports. MacMillan is reported to have written that he covered the distance of 1,200 miles (more likely 300 miles or so if he traveled directly to and from the supposed position of Crocker Land) over the sea ice to and from Cape Thomas Hubbard in 72 days. He says that standing on the heights of Cape Thomas Hubbard, and for several days during his advance to the northwest over the Polar Sea, there was every appearance of an immense tract of land extending along 120° of the horizon and showing hills, valleys and snow-capped peaks. ''Further travel towards the northwest caused it to change its position with the revolving of the sun. It constantly varied in extent and character and finally on our last march disappeared entirely.'' They reached the neighborhood of the supposed location of Crocker Land on April 23, 1914, when the meridian altitude and time sites gave the longitude as 108°22′ W. (which is some 3° west of the reputed position of Crocker Land), and lat. 82°30′ N. They returned to Cape Thomas Hubbard on April 28 and arrived at Etah on the Greenland coast, on the east side of Smith Sound, on May 21, a few days before the breaking up of the ice in Smith Sound.

The explorer says they planned, for the present year, a 1,500 mile trip to explore the region south of Ellef Ringnes and Amund Ringnes Lands. They intended to return by Jones Sound, to the south of Ellesmere Island, and ought to be back in Greenland waters by June 11. The *Bulletin* for June (p. 452) announced that the *George B. Cluett* had been chartered to bring the Crocker Land party home this summer. The vessel left New York on June 9 with Captain George Comer, Dr. E. O. Hovey and nine men in the crew.

Dr. W. S. Bruce in Spitzbergen. The *Bulletin* (Vol. 46, 1914, pp. 774 and 928) briefly noted Dr. Bruce's expedition to Spitzbergen last year. Further reports make it clear that the ice conditions practically prevented the carrying out of his researches. The chief purpose of his expedition was to make a hydrographic survey of Stor Fiord, but the heavy pack ice made it impossible for his party to enter it. He found also that the west coast of Spitzbergen generally was so heavily packed with ice masses that it was impossible to approach the coast. After he heard of the outbreak of the war he desisted from further efforts to carry out his plans and early in the fall returned to Edinburgh.

One Effect of the Eskimo's Diet of Tough Flesh. Mr. F. H. S. Knowles has a paper "The Glenoid Fossa in the Skull of the Eskimo" (*Geol. Surv. Mus. Bull. No. 9,* Anthropol. Series No. 4, 25 pp., ills. Ottawa, 1915), which gives an illustration of the physical effect upon the teeth and jaws of the Eskimo of the food to which his environment confines him:

"From all this evidence that I have been able to adduce I think it will now be readily granted: (1) that the food of the Eskimo is of an extremely tough nature and must need thorough mastication by very strong jaws; (2) that these people possess immensely powerful jaws and are from a very early age accustomed to make use of a strongly developed chewing method for the trituration of the tough substances constituting their ordinary diet; (3) that not content with the ordinary severe chewing use to which their jaws must be put, they regard as *bonne-bouche* substances which no ordinary jaws and teeth could make any impression upon; (4) that this chewing is, in the main, a widely extensive side-to-side movement of the mandible and reacts in varying degrees of intensity upon the form of their crania, mandibles, palates, and teeth."

GENERAL

Utilization of Solar Energy. The probable exhaustion, at the present rate of consumption, of the world's coal supply within a measurable time has led to the construction of various types of solar engines and motors designed to convert directly the sun's rays into motive power. A successful engine of this type is reported from Meadi, near Cairo, Egypt. It consists essentially of a series of parabolic reflectors in whose focus water receptacles are placed, in which steam is generated through the concentrated heat to which they are exposed. The total heat-receiving surface of the apparatus amounts to 1,000 square meters; in eight hours about 220 liters of water are evaporated. The engine develops about 50 horse power. The selection of Cairo as a site was due to its accessibility from Europe; it does not represent the ideal location, however, from the point of view of maximum production of energy. In the tropics such engines could very well compete with machines deriving their motive power from coal. Assuming 1 square meter to receive 1,800 calories per hour from the sun, enough heat strikes 1 square kilometer in the same time to equal the energy derived from the combustion of 1,000 tons of coal. Correspondingly the amount of radiation in the tropics during a year, if the sun shines uninterruptedly six hours a day, on an area of the size of Connecticut amounts to twenty times the total annual coal production of the world. (M. Amberg in *Himmel und Erde,* Vol. 27, 1915, No. 4.)

Recent Plankton Investigations. Newer methods developed by Lohmann of Kiel have made it possible to study the nature and distribution of even the most minute of the drifting organisms of the sea. These most miscroscopic of plankton are termed "nannoplankton" (from the Greek *nannos,* dwarf). A centrifugal apparatus is used consisting of conical vials containing the water samples which are revolved at a speed of 1,500 revolutions per minute. Even the smallest organisms are thus projected into the apex of the vials, from which they can be removed for examination under the microscope. Their diameter averages 2 to 15 microns. Their vertical distribution is dependent on the range of light. Their lower limit is thus placed at 100 fathoms; the great majority live near the surface, in depths not exceeding 10 fathoms. They predominate in shallow coastal waters, the mean ratio of frequency in these waters, as compared with the open sea, being 50:1. Their number is also much greater in cooler than in warmer waters. A liter of water from the western Baltic in summer contains on an average 2,500,000 diatoms; a liter from the Adriatic only 90,000. Inasmuch as fish are dependent on these organisms for food, this contrast is of economic significance to the countries concerned. From the Baltic and North Seas Germany derives a fish supply sufficient to form a regular article of food for her whole population, while the Adriatic fisheries suffice only to feed the coastal population (J. Schiller in *Die Naturwissenschaften,* Vol. 3, 1915, Nos. 16-17).

PERSONAL

Mr. Charles F. Brooks, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, is visiting the Weather Bureau and Agricultural Experiment Stations throughout the southern, western, and central United States to study the geographical distribution of farm enterprises, the distribution of farm labor throughout the year and the climatic element involved. This trip is part of his work in the Office of Farm Management.

Mr. Henry G. Bryant of Philadelphia has returned from a journey which led him through the Panama Canal, down the west coast of South America with visits to Cuzco and La Paz, across the Andes and home via Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. He says our business men have large opportunities there on the commercial side if they avail themselves of present favorable conditions; also that recent events are tending to draw the Spanish American republics into closer relations with their northern neighbors.

The Polynesian Society has elected Mr. William Churchill an Honorary Member. He has for many years been a Corresponding Member of the Society.

Prof. F. V. Emerson lectured before the Annual Convention of the Louisiana Public School Teachers' Association, Baton Rouge, on April 23, on ''The Present Tendencies in Physical Geography''; and on April 24 before the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in New Orleans on ''Some Geographic Influences in Mississippi Valley History.''

Dr. Robert F. Griggs, Department of Botany at the Ohio State University, will lead an expedition this summer, under the auspices of the National Geographic Society, to study the vegetation of the Katmai district in Alaska. The purpose is to ascertain the means by which vegetation is gaining a foothold on the volcanic ash with which the country was covered by the eruption of Katmai in 1912.

Mr. T. Hirata was appointed to the Directorship of the Meteorological Observatory of the Government General of Korea upon the retirement of Dr. Y. Wada.

The Paris Geographical Society has made a special award of a gold medal to Dr. J. Scott Keltie for his long and distinguished services to geographical science.

Mr. C. E. Lesher, Associate Geologist of the Land Classification Board of the U. S. Geological Survey, has been assigned to take charge of compiling the statistics of coal production published in the annual volume ''Mineral Resources.''

Assistant Professor George E. Nichols of Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, will continue work this summer on the ecology of the vegetation of northern Cape Breton Island which he began last summer.

Mr. Edward W. Parker, whose resignation from the Geological Survey is effective on July 1, has heretofore been in charge of the compilation of statistics of coal production in the annual publication ''Mineral Resources.''

Professor William North Rice, of Wesleyan University, will be engaged part of the summer in editorial work on the Bulletins of the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey which have been completed and are in course of publication.

Mr. G. B. Roorbach, of the University of Pennsylvania, is going to Venezuela during the summer vacation to study the effects of the war on industrial and commercial conditions in that country. He will make this investigation for the Carnegie Endowment for the Promotion of International Peace.